

Appendix F

Glossary of Terms

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Allied Health Professions:	Occupations composed of professionals who fulfill roles in the health care system, including assisting, facilitating, and complementing the work of physicians and other health care specialists. A few examples are clinical microbiologists, medical technologists, psychiatric aides, medical assistants, radiologic technologists, etc.
Allopathic:	That system of medical practice which aims to combat disease by the use of remedies that produce effects different from those produced by the special disease treated; a term invented to designate the ordinary practice, as opposed to homeopathy.
Behavioral Health:	Treatment of diseases or illness in which psycho-logical, emotional, or behavioral disturbances are the dominating feature. This field includes treatment of mental illness, substance abuse and other related disorders.
Department:	Texas Department of Health.
Health Care:	Maintenance of a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. It is recognized, however, that health has many dimensions (anatomical, physiological, and mental) and is largely culturally defined. The relative importance of various disabilities will differ depending upon the cultural milieu and the role of the affected individual in that culture. Most attempts at measurement have been assessed in terms of morbidity and mortality.
Integrated Requirements Model:	A health care workforce model developed by the U.S. Bureau of Health Professions that forecasts the integrated requirements for primary care physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and nurse midwives for delivery of primary care services. It employs varying assumptions about the practitioner mix used according to the insurance or managed care status of the population. All projections are reported on state, urban and rural bases.
Medical Practice Act:	Rules and regulations governing the practice of medicine as codified by the state legislature.
Mental Illness:	All forms of illness in which psychological, emotional, or behavioral disturbances are the dominating feature. The term is relative and variable in different cultures, schools of thought and definitions. It includes a wide range of types and severities.
Nonphysician Primary Care Workforce:	The primary care workforce are those direct patient care personnel who spend at least 50 percent of their time in the direct care of patients, especially physician assistants, advanced practice nurses and nurse midwives.

Osteopathic:	A system of therapy founded by Andrew Taylor Still (1828 to 1917) and based on the theory that the body is capable of making its own remedies against disease and other toxic conditions when it is in normal structural relationship and has favorable environmental conditions and adequate nutrition. It utilizes generally accepted physical, medicinal, and surgical methods of diagnosis and therapy, while placing chief emphasis on the importance of normal body mechanics and manipulative methods of detecting and correcting faulty structure.
Physician Assistant (PA):	A specially trained and licensed or otherwise credentialed individual who works under the direction of a supervising physician and provides a delineated range of primary care services.
Primary Care:	Basic or general health care focused on the point at which a patient ideally first seeks assistance from the medical care system. Primary care is considered comprehensive when the primary provider takes responsibility for the overall coordination of the care of the patient's physical and mental health problems. The appropriate use of consultants and community resources is an important part of effective primary care. Such care is provided by physicians and other personnel such as nurse practitioners or physician assistants.
Primary Care Physician:	A physician, usually a general or family practitioner, who serves as a health plan member's "personal physician" and point of first contact in seeking care. The PCP typically serves as the gatekeeper to the managed care system. The primary care physician workforce includes: medical doctors (M.D.s) and doctors of osteopathy (D.O.s); in the specialties of family practice, general internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and general pediatrics.
Primary Prevention:	Methods designed to avoid the occurrence of a specific disorder or groups of disorders.
Public Health:	The science dealing with the protection and improvement of community health by organized community effort. Public health activities are generally those that are less effective when undertaken on an individual basis and do not typically include personal health services. Public health activities include: immunizations; sanitation; preventive medicine, quarantine and other disease control activities; occupational health and safety programs; assurance of healthfulness of air, water and food; health education; epidemiology; and others.
Scope of Practice:	Codified range of duties that are allowed to be performed by a profession.
Statewide Health Coordinating Council:	Governor-appointed council codified in chapters 104 and 105 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended by House Bill 1716, acts of the 75 th Texas Legislature. The council is responsible for providing overall guidance

in the development or revision of the Texas State Health Plan, per instructions from the legislature, for submission to the governor, and promoting the implementation of the plan. The council consists of representatives of health professions, education, the public, and state agencies.

Telehealth:

The use of electronic communications networks for the transmission of information and data focused on health promotion, disease prevention, and the public's overall health including patient/community education and information, population-based data collection and management, and linkages for health care resources and referrals.

Telemedicine:

The practice of medicine where some distance separates the physician, patient or other health professionals. Telemedicine is the transfer of electronic medical data (i.e. high-resolution images, sounds, live video, and patient records) from one location to another. Commonly, telemedicine is interpreted to include such activities as closed circuit television consultations; telephone consultations; consultations via Internet; remote interpretation of pathology slides or echocardiographic videos that have been sent via overnight courier. More commonly, the use of information technologies is implied.